

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence #2015-28

September 4, 2015

To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Transport of Hazardous Materials on Commercially Owned and Operated Aircraft

The Federal Aviation Administration has recently informed us of a number of recent incidents where firefighters inadvertently attempted to transport hazardous materials aboard commercial airlines in checked luggage and carry-on bags. This poses a security risk for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and a safety risk for the airline crew and passengers.

In order to prevent such incidents, it is important to reiterate to all of our fire suppression units the roles and responsibility of each employee with regard to the transportation of hazardous materials. In addition to the items listed on TSA placards the following items are also prohibited on commercially owned and operated aircraft: fusees, flare pens or other ignition devices and Sigg bottles or other fuel containers that have not been emptied and purged.

The rules and regulations governing the transportation of hazardous materials are emphasized in all Basic Fire School training, all Firefighter Refresher training, Interagency Hotshot Crew and Smokejumper annual training, and Chief of Party training. Additionally, all such training shall clearly explain the distinctions in regulations and procedures between commercially owned and operated aircraft and aircraft operated under the exclusive control and direction of the government.

For the safety of our employees and the safety of others please be diligent in inspecting and packing carry-on bags and checked luggage for hazardous materials. Leave them at fire camp or with a local Fire Station.

/s/ Aitor Bidaburu
Chair, NMAC

(See attachment)



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The Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) is federal transportation safety rules found in [49 CFR, parts 171-180](#). The FAA enforces the HMR in aviation. Passengers violating the HMR can be fined from \$250 to \$50,000. Those who intentionally violate the regulations are subject to a criminal penalty of up to \$500,000 and/or five years imprisonment. So, it is important to know what items are hazardous materials and whether or not they are allowed in the aircraft cabin or in checked baggage.

Full list of hazmat materials and whether or not they are restricted in baggage:

http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/hazmat_safety/

<http://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/prohibited-items>

Items that fire personnel need to be aware of (not a comprehensive list):

Hazardous Materials

ITEM	NFES NUMBER	PROPER SHIPPING NAME	LABEL
Aerial Ignition Device, ping pong balls	3411	POTASSIUM PERMANGANTE, 5.1, UN1490, II	OXIDIZER, "THIS SIDE UP" or UP arrow
Cartridge, 22 caliber, blank	0372 0689	CARTRIDGE, SMALL ARMS	ORM-D commercial air freight and cargo air restricted
Extinguisher, Fire	0860 2143 1033 0319 0307 0617	FIRE EXTINGUISHER, 2.2, UN1044	NONFLAMMABLE GAS 2 commercial air freight restricted
Flare, Fire	0371 0299 0687 0690	FLAMMABLE SOLID, INORGANIC, N.O.S.(ALUMINUM POWDER), 4.1, UN1325, III	FLAMMABLE SOLID commercial air freight and cargo air restricted
Fusee, Signal Device, Hand	0105	SIGNAL DEVICES, HAND, 1.4G, UN0191, II or FUSEE, 4.1, NA1325, II (differences due to different manufacturers on the same GSA contract)	EXPLOSIVE 1.4G or FLAMMABLE SOLID commercial air freight restricted
Propane, Fuel, LPG, in 20# tank (5 gal)	0491	PETROLEUM GASES, LIQUIFIED, 2.1, UN1978 or PROPANE, 2.1, UN1978	FLAMMABLE GAS, 2.1 commercial air freight forbidden

